

CDAC Stakeholder Activity Report August 2020

Covid -19 Positional Statement and Action

The current pandemic has affected all organizations involved in the education, accreditation, certification, and registration of future health professionals. CDAC is no exception. I want to reach out to you as a CDAC stakeholder to update you on our current activities and how we adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CDAC's role and mandate are to assess programs against the national standards (requirements) for the purpose of accreditation, evaluate and monitor education programs – through onsite surveys (when possible), Annual Program Reviews, progress reports, and other means it deems necessary. These actions ensure that programs meet the CDAC accreditation requirements allowing it to grant (or deny) accreditation status. As stated in earlier correspondences, CDAC has had no choice but to postpone planned 2020 survey visits; however, CDAC continues to closely monitor program compliance with accreditation requirements through its Annual Program Reviews (APR) process. This year, a reporting requirement for program changes due to COVID-19 was implemented. Progress Reports for programs with reporting requirements on specific Recommendations will also be required, as usual.

Accredited programs are obliged to advise CDAC, at all times, of any significant change to the program, regardless of exceptional circumstances like COVID-19. CDAC expects that programs will meet their stated competencies and outcomes. The information provided by programs through the APR process (deadline for submission: June 30, 2020) was reviewed and collated against an evaluation rubric by the CDAC staff (see Appendix A). As data was collated into the rubric for each program, considerations for current and future cohorts would be considered by the review committees. Meetings with all four review committees were planned to review the information provided by the programs. The Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene committees were completed in July, and it is anticipated that the Dentistry and Health Facilities committees will be completed in August. All program responses were reviewed during these committee meetings. Additionally, the committees looked to see if the strategies implemented by the programs were adequate. The review committees also have the ability to ask for additional information from programs to ensure that competencies are being achieved. CDAC will advise all regulators if a program's accreditation status is withdrawn.

Please note that CDAC does not divulge information provided by programs or the reasons for its accreditation decisions. Programs' continued compliance with accreditation requirements does not mean that they cannot make modifications. Programs must maintain the ability to adapt and improve their curriculum and the program delivery model based on available new evidence, research, best practices, knowledge sharing, input from advisory committees, and Program Director/instructor participation in the accreditation, certification, and regulation processes.

Please note the CDAC accreditation requirements state:

CDAC strives to ensure that its accreditation requirements and processes do not constrain innovation or program autonomy. The expertise of educators in the development and implementation of educational programs, curriculum, and learning experiences is fully acknowledged. CDAC places its emphasis upon assessment of the program's ability to meet its stated objectives and outcomes.

Strategic initiative for an independent CDAC

Following the acceptance of its Strategic Planning initiative, the CDAC has been active in its project for separation from the CDA, establishing CDAC as a separate legal entity. The following highlights the timeline of events to date:

- RFP– Document was completed on March 6, 2020
- RFP document was posted on three national websites:
 - o Merx.com
 - o Bidscanada.com
 - o RFP.ca
- Cover letters and RFP documents were additionally sent to directly to six (6) different Law offices in the greater Ottawa area with a particular interest in Governance and Corporate Business law
- April 6, 2020 Deadline for Bidders to submit questions
- April 24, 2020, CDAC responds to Bidder questions
- June 1, 2020 Selection of top bidders. A total of nine (9) proposals were received and vetted from various law firms in the Ottawa and Toronto areas
- July 8, 2020 Contract awarded to Dentons LLP in the greater Ottawa area

Future planning:

- August-September, 2020 appointment of Steering Committee
- March 2021, Completion of the project (seven-month activity)

We are currently working with Ms. Brenda Fair of Fairwinds Training and Development to facilitate the process with the Steering Committee, which will be appointed in consultation with our legal representatives to ensure as even as possible distribution representing our 21 stakeholders. The appointment of the steering committee members will be completed in the month of September, and it is anticipated that we will be on time with our projected March 2021 completion date.

Future AGM and activities

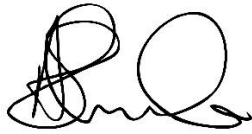
Initially, CDAC was anticipating the possibility of completing postponed survey visits later in the fall. At this time, we are announcing that those visits will not occur this fall and that they will be added to the 2021 survey visit roster. As a result, we anticipate that our regular AGM will occur virtually as scheduled during the November 13-15th dates, specific details will be provided as the date gets closer. The CDAC Committees will then have the ability to extend the accreditation statuses for the programs whose survey visits were cancelled in 2020. To be proactive the programs scheduled for surveys for the 2021 calendar will be notified for possible survey visit dates, providing there is not a restriction on travel from the health authorities.

CDAC did attend the virtual CODA meeting, and we are aligned in our practices and approach in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. All accrediting agencies are experiencing the same restrictions from the pandemic, CDAC has been as proactive as possible with the monitoring of

our programs and would like to thank our review committees for their extra dedication and commitment towards our processes.

Please also be assured that CDAC remains committed to working collaboratively with all its stakeholders. If you have any questions regarding the activities of the CDAC feel free to email or call.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amarjit Rihal', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Amarjit Rihal Chair CDAC

